Cultivable land in Chhattisgarh and MP

†1324. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of cultivable land in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the details of increase and decrease in cultivable land during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for increase or decrease in the agricultural land; and

(d) the details of action being taken to overcome the decrease in cultivable land, in view of the fast growing population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The net-sown area in the States of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, was 197.52 lakh ha. during 1995-96 which increased to 199.4 lakh ha. in 1997-98. Therefore, there is an increase of 1.88 lakh ha. during the above period. The increase in net sown area in mainly due to implementation of various land-based programmes in the States.

Availability of Sunflower seeds

1325. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand for Sunflower Oil in the market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that farmers are facing huge problems for non-availability of Sunflower Seeds due to which they are not in a position to grow Sunflower Seeds, to supply in the market; and

(c) if so, what are the proposals with Government to increase the production of sunflower Seeds, to meet the demand of the agriculturists, who are producing Sunflower Seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The demand for a particular oil depends upon its market price. The people in general use edible oil of their choice available in the country.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.